Listing of the Claims

1. (original) A method for selectively controlling access to media disposed on a media storage device, said method comprising:

installing a compliance mechanism on a computer system, said compliance mechanism communicatively coupled with said computer system when installed thereon, said compliance mechanism for enforcing compliance with a usage restriction applicable to said media;

obtaining control of a data pathway operable on said computer system;

accessing data disposed on said media storage device to determine said usage restriction; and

selectively preventing said computer system from digitally accessing said media via said data pathway while enabling presentation of the media.

2. (original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said usage restriction comprises a copyright restriction or a licensing agreement associated with said media.

3. (original) The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising:

installing a filter driver on said computer system, said filter driver configured to be coupled with and operable in conjunction with said compliance mechanism and for controlling said data pathway.

4. (original) The method as recited in Claim 3 wherein said filter driver prevents digitally accessing said media.

5. (original) The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising:

activating an autorun mechanism disposed on said media storage device in response to a device drive coupled with said computer system receiving said media storage device, said autorun mechanism for initiating said installing said compliance mechanism on said computer system.

6. (original) The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising:

presenting said media using an analog sound rendering device communicatively coupled with said device drive via an analog signal path.

7. (original) The method as recited in Claim 5 wherein said autorun mechanism is activated in response to detection of a usage restriction indicator disposed on said media storage device, subsequent to said device drive receiving said media storage device.

8. (original) The method as recited in Claim 5 wherein said autorun mechanism is activated in response to detection of a selection of an icon representing said media.

9. (original) The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising:

bypassing said installing said compliance mechanism on said computer system if an instance of said compliance mechanism is predisposed on said computer system.

10. (original) The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising:

initiating a communication session between said computer system and a network to which said computer system is coupled and from which said compliance mechanism is available;

comparing said compliance mechanism present on said computer system and said compliance mechanism available from said network; and

updating said compliance mechanism on said computer system.

11. (original) The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising:

deactivating said compliance mechanism upon detection of uncoupling of said media storage device from said computer system.

12. (original) The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising:

uninstalling said compliance mechanism upon detection of uncoupling of said media storage device from said computer system.

13. (original) The method as recited in Claim 1 wherein said media storage device upon which said media is disposed is from a group of media storage devices consisting of a compact disk (CD), a mini CD, a digital versatile disk (DVD), a mini DVD, a compact flash card, a secure digital (SD) card, a memory stick, a digital audio tape (DAT), a digital video tape (DVT), a holographic storage object, a magneto-optical disk, a multi-layer fluorescent disk, an optical disk, and a magnetic disk.

14. (original) The method as recited in Claim 1 further comprising:

installing a media identification mechanism on said computer system;

utilizing said media identification mechanism to identify an instance of media disposed on said media storage device;

determining a usage restriction applicable to said instance of media; and

using said compliance mechanism to selectively control digitally accessing said instance of media based upon said determining.

15. (original) The method as recited in Claim 14 further comprising:

activating an autorun mechanism disposed on said media storage device in response to a device drive coupled with said computer system receiving said media storage device, said autorun mechanism for initiating installing said media identification mechanism on said computer system.

16. (original) A system for selectively controlling access to media on a media storage device, said system comprising:

a compliance mechanism disposed on said media storage device and configured to be installed on and communicatively coupled with a computer system, said compliance mechanism for enforcing compliance with a usage restriction applicable to said media;

a device drive coupled with said computer system for accessing said media storage device, said device drive communicatively coupled with an analog sound rendering device of said computer system; and

wherein said compliance mechanism is configured to selectively prevent access to said media via a digital data pathway of said computer system while presenting said media via said analog sound rendering device.

17. (original) The system of Claim 16 wherein said compliance mechanism further comprises a filter driver configured to be coupled with said compliance mechanism and said digital data pathway, said filter driver for controlling said digital data pathway.

18. (original) The system of Claim 16 wherein said compliance mechanism is configured to initiate a communication session between said computer system and a network to which said computer system is coupled and from which a second compliance mechanism is available.

19. (original) The system of Claim 18 wherein said compliance mechanism is configured to compare said compliance mechanism on said computer system with said second compliance mechanism and to update said compliance mechanism on said computer system.

20. (original) The system of Claim 16 further comprising:

an autorun protocol disposed on said media storage device configured to initiate installation of said compliance mechanism and a presentation mechanism on said computer system in response to said device drive receiving said media storage device.

21. (original) The system of Claim 20 wherein said autorun protocol is configured to initiate installation of said compliance mechanism in response to detection of a usage restriction indicator disposed on said media storage device subsequent to said device drive receiving said media storage device.

22. (original) The system of Claim 20 wherein said autorun protocol is configured to initiate installation of said compliance mechanism in response to detection of a selection of an icon representing said media.

23. (original) The system of Claim 20 wherein said autorun protocol is configured to bypass said installation upon detection of an instance of said compliance mechanism present on said computer system.

24. (original) The system of Claim 20 wherein said presentation mechanism is configured to present said media in accordance with said compliance mechanism.

25. (original) The system of Claim 16 wherein said usage restriction comprises a copyright restriction or licensing agreement applicable to said media.

26. (original) The system of Claim 16 wherein said compliance mechanism is configured to be deactivated upon detection of uncoupling of said media storage device from said computer system.

27. (original) The system of Claim 16 wherein said compliance mechanism is configured to be uninstalled upon detection of uncoupling of said media storage device from said computer system.

28. (original) The system of Claim 16 wherein said media storage device upon which said media is disposed is from a group of media storage devices, said group consisting of a compact disk (CD), a mini CD, a digital versatile disk (DVD), a mini DVD, a compact flash card, a secure digital (SD) card, a memory stick, a digital audio tape (DAT), a digital video tape (DVT), a holographic storage object, a magneto-optical disk, a multi-layer fluorescent disk, an optical disk, and a magnetic disk.

29. (currently amended) The method as recited in Claim 16 [[14]] further comprising:

a media identification mechanism installed on said computer system and communicatively coupled with said usage compliance mechanism, said media identification mechanism for identifying an instance of media disposed on said media storage device to determine said usage restriction applicable to said instance of media.

30. (original) The method as recited in Claim 29 further comprising:

an autorun protocol disposed on said media storage device configured to initiate installation of said media identification mechanism on said computer system in response to said device drive receiving said media storage device.

31. (original) A computer readable medium for storing computer implementable instructions for causing a computer system to perform a method of selectively controlling access to media on a media storage device, said method comprising:

invoking an autorun protocol disposed on said media storage device in response to a device drive coupled with said computer system receiving said media storage device, said autorun protocol for installing a compliance mechanism on said computer system;

installing said compliance mechanism on said computer system, said compliance mechanism communicatively coupled with said computer system when installed thereon, said compliance mechanism for providing compliance with a usage restriction associated with said media;

acquiring control of a digital data pathway of said computer system with a filter driver coupled with said compliance mechanism and with said computer system, said filter driver installed during said installing of said compliance mechanism; and

selectively restricting said media on said media storage device from being accessed via said digital data pathway while enabling presentation of said media using an analog sound rendering device communicatively coupled with said device drive.

32. (original) The computer readable medium of Claim 31 wherein said method further comprises:

bypassing said installing said compliance mechanism on said computer system if a copy of said compliance mechanism is predisposed thereon.

33. (original) The computer readable medium of Claim 31 wherein said method further comprises:

commencing a communication session between said computer system and a network to which said computer system is coupled and from which a version of said compliance mechanism is available.

34. (original) The computer readable medium of Claim 33 wherein said method further comprises:

updating said compliance mechanism on said computer system.

35. (original) The computer readable medium of Claim 34 wherein said method further comprises:

activating a presentation mechanism coupled with said computer system for presenting said media, said presentation mechanism authorized to present said media in accordance with said compliance mechanism.

36. (original) The computer readable medium of Claim 34 wherein said method further comprises:

installing a presentation mechanism on said computer system to enable said computer system to present said media, said presentation mechanism authorized to present said media in accordance with said compliance mechanism.

37. (original) The computer readable medium of Claim 31 wherein said autorun protocol is invoked in response to detection of a usage restriction indicator disposed on said media storage device, subsequent to said device drive receiving said media storage device.

38. (original) The computer readable medium of Claim 31 wherein said autorun protocol is invoked in response to detection of a selection of an icon representing said media.

39. (original) The computer readable medium of Claim 31 wherein said usage restriction comprises a copyright restriction or licensing agreement applicable to said media.

40. (original) The computer readable medium of Claim 31 wherein said method further comprises:

deactivating said compliance mechanism upon detection of uncoupling of said media storage device from said device drive.

41. (original) The computer readable medium of Claim 41 wherein said method further comprises:

uninstalling said compliance mechanism upon detection of uncoupling of said media storage device from said device drive.

42. (original) The computer readable medium of Claim 31 wherein said media storage device upon which said media is disposed is from a group of media storage devices, said group consisting of a compact disk (CD), a mini CD, a digital versatile disk (DVD), a mini DVD, a compact flash card, a secure digital (SD) card, a memory stick, a digital audio tape (DAT), a digital video tape (DVT), a holographic storage object, a magneto-optical disk, a multi-layer fluorescent disk, an optical disk, and a magnetic disk.

43. (original) The computer readable medium of Claim 31 wherein said method further comprises:

installing a media identification mechanism on said computer system;

utilizing said media identification mechanism to identify an instance of media disposed on said media storage device;

determining a usage restriction applicable to said instance of media; and

using said compliance mechanism to selectively control digitally accessing said instance of media based upon said determining.

44. (original) The computer readable medium of Claim 43 wherein said method further comprises:

activating said autorun protocol disposed on said media storage device in response to said device drive receiving said media storage device, said autorun mechanism for initiating installing said media identification mechanism on said computer system.